

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Tuesday, November 10. to Thursday, November 12. 1713.

The Injustice to the Trade by Entering Goods for Flanders, which are sent for France. The same Merchant, on the same Day, Entered Goods for Bruges, and other Goods for Flanders. If those Goods had gone to Bruges, Ostend, or Newport, why had it not been said so in the Entry?

A Letter farther discovering that Fraud, and giving an Example in a Parcel of Goods Entred for Marseilles, and no Ship bound thither Entred.

IT seems an Injustice rather than an Accident to the present Trade to France, and looks as if some of our Merchants were Confederate with those, who are afraid, that the Trade to France should appear too great, when every day they ship Goods to France, and Enter them at the Custom-house, as if they went to other Places.

Some of these Entries are also very remarkable, and may serve to convince the People of what has been said in the *MERCATOR* of the great Quantity of Goods sent into France under general Heads of other Countries, as of Flanders, the Straights, Holland, and the like. For Example:

We find one and the same Merchant, on one and the same Day, Entering two Parcels of Goods, one Entred to Bruges, and the other to Flanders; as if Bruges was not in Flanders, or as if we did not know the Meaning of this, (viz.) That those, which were Entred for Flanders being English Woollen Manufactures, Spanish Cloths, &c. were shipped on board the Dolphin bound to Dunkirk, but being to be run on shore there, it was not proper to let them be pulickly known here.

If this is not the Reason, then it must be that other *Party-Fraud*, (viz.) to avoid letting the French Trade appear so large as it really is.

Among many judicious Observations sent by Strangers to the *MERCATOR*, the following, relating to the like Case in the Entries of Goods under other general Heads, is so directly to this purpose, that it could not be reasonably omitted: And the *MERCATOR* not being able to inform himself of every such Case, thinks it Justice to acknowledge, that such Gentlemen as think fit to communicate Things of this Nature, do their Country very much Service. The Case is in the following Letter.

To the Author of the Mercator.

S I R,

YOU have not made a more just and effectual Observation in your whole Work, than that of the French Trade being carried on under the Titles

“ and Heads of other Branches of Trade. Your former
“ Observation of a great part of France being always
“ supplied with English Manufactures from Holland,
“ and from Flanders, by the Rivers Rhine, Moselle,
“ Saar, Maes, and Sambre, is most just: I think if you
“ err in any thing, it is in the Quantity of English
“ Goods, which you speak of the French taking annu-
“ ally of the Dutch; which, when the Trade is open,
“ I can assure you, is much greater than you mention,
“ as I can witness from my own Knowledge, having
“ lived in those Parts many Years, and Traded much
“ therein. Also if the Books of the Custom-house Of-
“ ficers or Farmers on the Meuse, on the Frontiers of
“ Champaign, and at Metz, of which you spoke in
“ your *MERCATOR*, were enquired into, it would
“ appear, that on that side only, a much greater Quan-
“ tity of English Goods have been carried into France,
“ than what you mention. It would surprize you to
“ see, as I have seen, the great Quantity of Goods
“ which are sold in Metz aforesaid, particularly of fine
“ Spanish Cloths, Yorkshire Cloth called Dozens, Ker-
“ sies, and Western Goods called Serges and Perpetua-
“ na's: of all which, one might at any time, before
“ the Year 1687, have bought in Metz only, to the
“ Value of a Million of Livres in two or three Days
“ Notice; and great Quantities are still sold here, not-
“ withstanding the Prohibitions and great Customs.

“ As to the shipping Goods here on board Ships
“ bound to France, the Goods being Entred to Flan-
“ ders; I something wonder you should make strange
“ of it, seeing it is generally supposed among Mer-
“ chants, and at the Custom-house also, that when any
“ Goods are Entred for Flanders, they are design'd for
“ France, there being no Port in Flanders for us to
“ Enter any Goods for, except Ostend and Newport,
“ or to Bruges, which Enter by Ostend: And there are
“ many Reasons, why they do thus, of which you touch
“ one very well; (viz.) That these Goods are to be
“ run on shore at Dunkirk, and it would make too
“ much Noise to Enter the Woollen Manufactures pub-
“ lickly for France. Now, Sir, as you give daily Ac-
counts



counts of the great Quantities of English Manufactures of other kinds, which have been shipped and will be openly for France; so you may please to let the World know, that the following Quantities of Goods, which have been Entred as for Flanders or Holland, have been all actually sent for France, and never so much as Landed in Flanders or Holland, or were ever intended to be so; of which, if there is any occasion, I will produce sufficient Proof before the Parliament, as follows.

Goods Entred for Flanders and Holland, and carried directly to France, within Seven Months past.

126 Long Cloths
778 Spanish Cloths
654 Double and Single Dozens
137 Single and Double Bays
1239 Stuffs and Druggets
8715 Yards of Frize
16280 Yards of Flannel
1879 Serges and Perpets
8352 Goads, Cottons
1264 Dozen of Hose
823 Kerfics
1126 C. Tann'd Leather
18726 Callicoes

" Besides these Accounts, which I have more at large, and which contain great Quantities of other Goods, you have not taken sufficient Notice of the great Quantities of Goods sent from hence to Marseilles and Thoulon, all which is Entred to the Straights; and among which, are especially the following Particulars:

1748 Fodder of Lead
216783 l. Virginia Tobacco
1248 Hogsheds of Sugar
168423 l. Pepper

" Besides a very great Quantity of Woollen Manufactures, too many to Name: To make good the Reasonableness of this, you may observe, that now and then you have an Entry of Goods to Marseilles: As for Example, 31091 l. of Pepper, Entred the 31st of October last. Now, 1. There has no Ship been cleared out for Marseilles; so that the Ship, which carries that Pepper, is concealed. 2. There has no other Goods been Entred thither; it is not probable either that the Ship carried no Goods but this Pepper, or that any Ship bound to other Ports would go so deep into the Gulph of Lyons as to call at Marseilles to Land 150 Bags of Pepper: But the Truth of Fact is this, that the Ships go thither and Land great Quantities of English Goods in France; but the Goods are all Entred for *the Straights*, and the Ships also, so that the Particulars cannot be known. And thus the Nation is Cheated, and the Greatness of the Commerce is Concealed; while, on the other Hand, all the Goods, which come from France are openly to be seen in the Custom-house Entries, except what is Run Clandestinely, which is also occasioned by the excessive Duties: So that the Bill of Commerce is

" necessary purely for suppressing Clandestine Trade, if it were for no other Reason; of which I shall give you the trouble of another Letter.

This Letter is too Significant not to deserve a Place in this Paper: As to the Particulars of Goods, the *MERCATOR* does not Vouch them any other than as by a Letter; no question but the Author understood what he wrote: But this the *MERCATOR* affirms, (viz.) That it is very rational to believe the Quantities of Goods are as great, and in some Particulars greater than here express'd. We have yet more of these Letters to this purpose, but this Paper admits them not, for want of room.

The List of Goods Shipped for Turkey must be delayed to our next.

From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Entries to France in Three Days, Nov. 3, 6, 7.

1125 Glasses
34 Gallons Canary
33 Fodder of Lead
14423 l. Cotton Wooll
20 Quarter of Wheat
43 Quarter of Oatmeal
3 Quarter of Pease
450 Firkins of Butter
14 C. Cheese
145 C. Copperas
20 l. Wrought Silks
2 doz. Hats, Castors
32 Garments
2 Pictures
The Duke d'Aumont's Household Stuff
320 C. Logwood
10 Ton of Red Saunders
18 Callicoes
* 386 C. Brown Sugar
* 4317 l. Virginia Tobacco
* 100 Coney Wooll
* 24 Spanish Cloths
* 2 Kerfics
* 30 Stuffs
5 C. Painters Colours
56 l. Wrought Brads
6 Blankets
Certain Household Goods

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Day is Publish'd,

THE Character of Richard St—le, Esq; with some Remarks by Toby, Abel's Kinsman, or according to Mr. Calamy A. F. & N. in a Letter to his Godfather: To which will be prefixed, the Effigies of the Author, curiously Engraven on Copper.

Bella inter geminos plusquam civilia fratres. Epigr.
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